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JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS · 1956

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JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

1956

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
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Statistics of the number of children's cases handled by juvenile courts are affected by several factors. Ages of children and types of cases (e.g. traffic violations) over which courts have jurisdiction are established by State law and often differ for courts in different States and sometimes for courts within the same State. This affects the number of cases reported and, consequently, the comparability of the reports from the various courts.

The number of children's cases reported by different courts is greatly influenced also by variations in the organization and scope of the services of other agencies. Many communities have established agencies such as a juvenile division of the police department that adjust many cases or refer them to other community agencies rather than to the juvenile courts. In some communities the juvenile court is the only agency providing services to children. In others, programs of social services for children are well established; in these, the juvenile court is only one of the many agencies dealing with children and is frequently used only when its authority as a judicial agency is needed.

Furthermore, whether a child comes to the attention of the court is influenced by community and parental attitudes toward a child's behavior, and these attitudes vary from place to place.

Because of these and other limitations (many of which are not statistically assessable), juvenile court statistics, when taken by themselves, cannot measure the full extent of either delinquency, dependency, or neglect. They may be particularly misleading when used to make comparisons between one community and another. They do, however, indicate how frequently one important community resource, the juvenile court, is utilized for dealing with such cases.

HIGHLIGHTS

Delinquency cases

Trend.....	In 1956, for the eighth consecutive year, delinquency cases increased over the previous year. The increase was 21 percent while the child population increased by only 3 percent. From 1948-1956, delinquency cases more than doubled while the child population increased only 19 percent.
Extent.....	About 450,000 different children or 2.2 percent of all children aged 10 through 17 were involved in delinquency cases in 1956. The number of such cases, which comprise about four-fifths of all juvenile court cases, was somewhat larger (520,000) since a child may have appeared in more than one case during the year.
Sex ratio.....	Delinquency cases in court are primarily a boys' problem. The boys outnumber girls 5 to 1.
Differential rates..	Rates of delinquency cases in predominantly urban areas were 3 1/2 times higher than in predominantly rural areas.
Manner of handling..	Over half of delinquency cases are disposed of unofficially--without the filing of a petition for formal hearing in court.

Other cases

Dependency and neglect cases comprised 16 percent of the court cases in 1956. Such cases decreased by 1 percent between 1955 and 1956.

The remaining 5 percent of the court cases were those involving adoption, custody, consent to marry and other "special proceedings."

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The measurement of juvenile delinquency is an important item in assessing the success or failure of our modern society. Yet complete measurement would require precise definition and uniform procedures that do not exist. 1/

Only part of the problem of juvenile delinquency comes to the notice of juvenile courts, but for that part, two conditions of accurate measurement are fulfilled: the child or youth is alleged to have committed an act regarded as delinquent and his case must receive attention from personnel of the court. A count, therefore, can be made.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES

The Children's Bureau has been collecting and publishing reports from courts about numbers of juvenile delinquency cases for many years. Not until 1956, however, was it possible to say with any degree of confidence that the numbers reported were representative of the country as a whole. During 1954 and 1955 the Children's Bureau with the technical assistance of the Bureau of the Census designed a national sample of courts based on the Current Population Survey sample and collected the first data. For 1956, sufficient data were reported to permit national estimates from this sample.

In 1956, as estimated from the national sample, about 450,000 children were involved in delinquency cases in the courts throughout the country. This amounts to about 2.2 percent of all children of juvenile court age (generally 10 through 17). 2/

A child is counted each time he is referred to a juvenile court in a new delinquency case during the year. Since some children are referred more than once, about one-half million (520,000) delinquency cases were handled in the United States in 1956.

1/ For further discussion of the problems of definition and measurement see I. Richard Perlman: "Reporting Juvenile Delinquency," National Probation and Parole Association Journal, 1957, 3, 242-249 (July).

2/ Children in the age group 10 through 17 are used as a base for computing the rate, although the estimate of children in juvenile delinquency cases includes a small number under 10 and over 17 years of age.

Juvenile delinquency as defined in the statutes of most States is the violation of a law or municipal ordinance by children or youth of juvenile court age, or conduct so seriously antisocial as to interfere with the rights of others or to menace the welfare of the delinquent himself or of the community. This broad definition of delinquency includes conduct such as ungovernable behavior and running away, conduct labeled "delinquency" but not usually considered a violation of law when committed by an adult. Also included are traffic violations wherever the juvenile court has jurisdiction in such cases. Consequently, acts that result in bringing a child before the court vary widely in seriousness although not as widely as the popular concept of delinquency.

The figures reported to the Children's Bureau are numbers of cases of juvenile delinquency, alleged as well as adjudged, handled by the courts. Not included are many children who may have presented similar problems of conduct, who either were not apprehended or were dealt with by the police, by social agencies, by schools, or by youth-serving agencies without referral to court.

About two-thirds (65 percent) of the delinquency cases in 1956 were handled in courts that serve a predominantly urban population, that is, 70 percent or more of the population served by the court live in urban areas as classified by the Bureau of the Census; an additional one-quarter (24 percent), as shown in Table A, were handled in semi-urban courts, and the remaining 11 percent in predominantly rural areas.

Table A: Delinquency Cases Disposed of by Juvenile Courts, By Type of Court, United States, 1956

Type of court a/	Delinquency cases disposed of					
	Total		Boys		Girls	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total.....	520,000	100	438,000	100	82,000	100
Urban.....	336,000	65	281,000	64	55,000	67
Semi-urban.....	125,000	24	106,000	24	19,000	23
Rural.....	59,000	11	51,000	12	8,000	10

a/ Courts are classified according to the percentage of the population they serve that live in urban areas (as classified by the Bureau of the Census for "urban courts," 70 percent or more; for semi-urban courts, 30-69 percent; for rural courts, under 30 percent.

Boys versus girls

Boys' delinquency cases outnumber girls' cases in the ratio of about 5 to 1 for the country as a whole. This same ratio has prevailed for at least five years. One reason for the greater number of boys' cases may be that boys are permitted greater freedom and as a result are more likely to become involved in infractions of the law. Boys are outwardly more aggressive than girls and this aggressiveness sometimes results in overt delinquent acts. Also, boys may have more of a tendency to associate in groups and delinquent behavior may stem from misdirected group activities.

In the semi-urban and predominantly rural courts, the ratio of boys' to girls' cases was even higher (6 to 1). The smaller proportion of girls' cases in the more rural courts may result from several factors. These courts generally serve smaller communities (see Table D, page 10) where individuals and their activities become well known; in these communities public attitudes may be more effective in controlling the kinds of activities for which girls in larger communities are generally referred to court, -- such as ungovernable behavior, running away and sex offenses. In smaller communities, too, girls may receive greater "protection" from court referral by having their problems resolved in other ways.

Official versus unofficial handling

Over half (52 percent) of all delinquency cases were handled unofficially. "Unofficial cases" are those in which no petition or legal paper is filed and in which the case is adjusted by the judge, referee, probation officer, or other officer of the court, after conference at the point of intake, or after social study and investigation. As indicated below, the proportion of cases handled officially by predominantly rural courts was strikingly higher than in other types of courts:

Type of court	Percentage of cases disposed of: Officially	Unofficially
Urban.....	47	53
Semi-urban.....	44	56
Rural.....	59	41

The relatively high proportion of delinquency cases handled officially in the rural courts probably results from two conditions that may be interrelated: First, the staff of a rural court is likely to be small, often with no specialized intake or probation staff to carry on the usual conferences or investigations that are necessary in unofficial cases. Second, lack of probation staff and other community facilities for treatment often makes it necessary for a rural court to commit delinquent children to institutions to a greater extent than is done by the

courts in larger communities. Such commitment is required by law to be handled officially through the filing of a petition.

While the smallness of rural courts and the attendant lack of staff and facilities seems to account for a generally higher proportion of cases handled officially, a high degree of variability exists among particular courts. This variability, which results from individual court practices and the philosophy of the judge, is found among courts in various regions, various States or even among courts in the same State. 3/ For example, in California, all courts combined disposed of 30 percent of their delinquency cases officially; in Missouri, 42 percent; in Utah, 71 percent. Within California itself, however, one court (Los Angeles County) handled 91 percent of its delinquency cases officially while another court (Alameda County) handled only 20 percent in this manner.

Differential rates

Although urban courts handle 65 percent of the delinquency cases in the country and rural courts 11 percent, these courts include in their jurisdictions 44 and 28 percent of the child population respectively. These disproportions are reflected in a higher case rate for urban courts in relation to population. As shown below the urban case rate is about 3 1/2 times larger than the rural rate:

Type of court	Rate per 1,000 child population 10-17 years of age
Urban.....	43.8
Semi-urban.....	25.7
Rural.....	12.5

One of the many factors affecting the number of delinquency cases referred to juvenile courts is the age group over which the courts have jurisdiction. If a court has jurisdiction over children under 18 years of age, obviously more children will be referred to it than to one where jurisdiction goes only up to 16 years of age. Table B shows rates of delinquency cases calculated on the basis of the child population at risk, that is, from the age of 10 to the upper age limit of the court's original jurisdiction.

3/ For a discussion of policy consideration in the unofficial disposition of cases, see Standards for Specialized Courts Dealing with Children, Children's Bureau Pub. No. 346, Washington, D.C. Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1954 (p. 43-45).

Table B: Rates of Delinquency Cases per 1,000 Child Population Disposed of by Urban and Rural Courts according to the Age Jurisdiction of the Courts, United States, 1956

Type of court	Age group over which court has original jurisdiction		
	Under 16	Under 17	Under 18 a/
Urban.....	29.2	41.8	58.8
Semi-urban.....	10.0	24.0	31.9
Rural.....	3.7	4.1	18.1

a/ A small number of courts having jurisdiction under 21 years of age are included here. The number of cases involved do not seriously affect the rates of the courts in this column.

When the rates are adjusted in this way to the child population at risk, courts having jurisdiction for older children still have much higher rates. This probably means that proportionately more children get into trouble as they get older or that more older children are brought to court.

Changes in delinquency cases, 1955-1956

The total number of delinquency cases disposed of by juvenile courts in the United States increased by 21 percent between 1955 and 1956. During that period, the child population 10 through 17 years of age increased by an estimated 3 percent. This is the largest single annual increase during the past decade. The comparison is based on data from courts which reported both years; these courts constitute more than four-fifths of those in the national sample.

As indicated in Table C, the increase in delinquency cases was substantially greater in rural courts than in urban or semi-urban courts.

Table C: Percent Change in Delinquency Cases, by Type of Court, 1955-1956

Type of court	Percent change in delinquency cases, 1955-1956				
	Total	Boys	Girls	Official cases	Unofficial cases
Total.....	+21	+22	+18	+24	+18
Urban.....	+19	+20	+16	+23	+16
Semi-urban.....	+20	+21	+16	+21	+19
Rural.....	+33	+33	+35	+35	+31

For the country as a whole, boys' cases increased somewhat more than did girls' cases, although in rural courts the increase in girls' cases was slightly higher.

Official cases increased more than unofficial cases. In the rural courts, the increase in both official and unofficial cases was greater than for all courts in the country, reflecting the higher increase in general in these courts.

These changes between 1955 and 1956 represent the over-all findings for the country as a whole and for urban, semi-urban, and rural courts. Particular courts vary widely from the over-all findings.

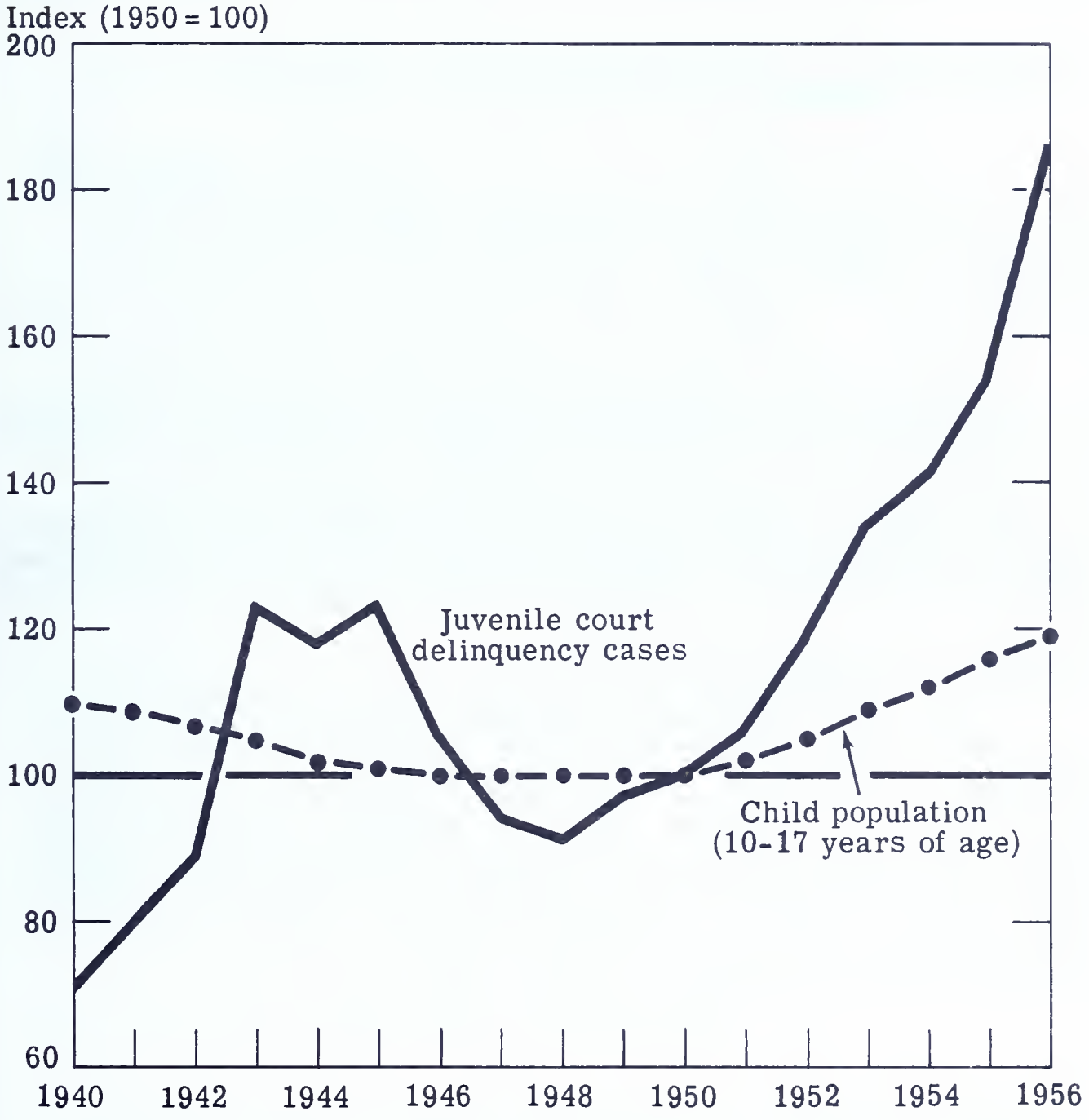
Trends in delinquency cases, 1940-1956

The general trend in delinquency cases after 1940 was upward during World War II to a peak in 1945, then downward for three years after the war. Beginning in 1949, however, the downward trend was reversed and has continued upward each year through 1956. For eight consecutive years delinquency cases have increased. This rising trend resulted in 1953 in figures exceeding the peak of World War II and by 1956 in figures at the highest level ever. (See chart)

Changes in delinquency cases from 1955 to 1956 are based on data from the national sample of juvenile courts. (See discussion of sample courts on page 10). Trend data prior to 1955 are based on reports previously collected by the Children's Bureau from a comparable group of courts. While the latter courts were not selected as statistically representative of all courts in the country, their reports were the best available to indicate trends during that period. They are probably good indicators of the true direction and of the approximate degree of change in delinquency cases in the country, although it was not certain that they represented the extent of the problem. Their usefulness for trend data is indicated by the fact that the group of courts reporting prior to 1955 showed a percentage change (19 percent) between 1955 and 1956, not very different from the sample group of courts (21 percent).

The recent rise in delinquency cases has far outstripped the growth in the child population. While delinquency cases more than doubled between 1948 and 1956, the child population 10 through 17 years of age in the country increased during that same period by only 19 percent.

TREND IN JUVENILE COURT DELINQUENCY CASES AND CHILD POPULATION 10-17 YEARS OF AGE, 1940-56



DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASES [4/]

Most juvenile courts by statute have jurisdiction over court actions involving dependent and neglected children as well as those involving delinquent children. Such jurisdiction is based on the principle that the State has a responsibility for the protection of these children.

Unlike the delinquent child who is brought to the attention of the court because of his antisocial behavior, the dependent or neglected child is usually referred to the court because of some form of neglect or inadequate care on the part of his parents or guardian (i.e., lack of adequate care or support resulting from the death, absence, or physical or mental incapacity of the parents, abandonment or desertion, abuse or cruel treatment, improper or inadequate conditions in the home).

Dependency and neglect cases, 1956

About 105,000 dependency and neglect cases were handled by the juvenile courts in the United States during 1956. This was about 16 percent of all types of cases handled by the courts. Two-thirds of the dependency and neglect cases were handled by official action; the remainder, unofficially. The larger proportion of dependency and neglect cases handled officially as compared with delinquency cases may result from the fact that courts more frequently consider that these cases require a change in the legal relationship between the parent and the child, which necessitates official action.

4/ Estimates in this section of the report are not based on the national sample of juvenile courts since data on dependency and neglect cases were not available for a sizeable number of courts in the national sample. Instead they are based on all courts reporting on such cases. In 1956, 1,740 courts reported on dependency and neglect cases. (See table 1). These courts included 72 percent of the child population under 18 years of age in their jurisdiction.

Rates of dependency and neglect cases like rates of delinquency cases, are higher in urban areas than in rural areas. This difference is as follows:

Type of court	Rate of dependency and neglect cases per 1,000 children under 18 years of age
Urban	3.2
Semi-urban	2.0
Rural	0.9

Changes in dependency and neglect cases 1955-1956

The total number of dependency and neglect cases disposed of decreased by one percent between 1955 and 1956. While only a slight decrease, it was the first one noted since 1950.

Just as the predominantly rural courts showed the greatest percentage increase in delinquency cases between 1955 and 1956, rural courts showed the greatest percentage decrease in dependency and neglect cases between those years. This is indicated in the following tabulation:

Type of court	Percent change in dependency and neglect cases, 1955-1956
Total	-1
Urban	-2
Semi-urban	+1
Rural	-7

SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS

In addition to delinquency and dependency or neglect, children are referred to juvenile courts for other reasons, which are generally termed "special proceedings." Special proceedings include adoption, commitment of mentally defective children, material witnesses, application for consent to marry or enlist in the armed forces, determination of custody or guardianship of a child, and permission to hospitals for the performance of an operation on children.

Of all the children's cases reported by the courts in 1956, only 5 percent, were special proceedings. Special proceedings cases increased by 12 percent, from 1955 to 1956.

Recent improvement in juvenile court statistics

As has been pointed out, the data on juvenile delinquency cases discussed in this report are based on data received from a national sample of courts chosen to be statistically representative of the United States. This new measure overcomes one of the very serious limitations in former collection of data.

The new national sample, designed with technical assistance from the Bureau of the Census and based on its Current Population Survey Sample, is representative of the country as a whole. For this sample the United States was first divided into about 2,000 primary sampling units, each consisting of a county or a number of contiguous counties, such as those in a standard metropolitan area. The 2,000 primary sampling units were then grouped into 230 strata, each consisting of a set of units as much alike as possible in such characteristics as regional location, population density, rate of growth, percent of non-white population, principal industry, type of agriculture, etc. From each stratum a single primary sample unit was selected at random. This resulted in 230 sampling units in which there were 502 courts. 5/

As shown in Table D, the majority of the urban courts serve large areas of 100,000 or more population; the majority of semi-urban courts, serve medium-sized areas; and the majority of rural courts, small areas of under 20,000.

Table D: Population Size of Areas Served by Courts in National Sample by Type of Court

Type of court	Number of courts serving populations of					
	All Courts	100,000 or over	50,000-99,999	20,000-49,999	10,000-19,999	Under 10,000
Total.....	502	155	81	143	68	55
Urban.....	177	122	25	24	3	3
Semi-urban....	175	33	48	59	18	17
Rural.....	150	-	8	60	47	35

5/ For a more detailed discussion of the Current Population Survey Sample on which juvenile court sample was based, see Current Population Reports Series P-23, No. 2, Bureau of the Census or American Statistician, May 1954.

Table 1: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 1,813 COURTS, 1956 a/

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial
ALABAMA:											
Jefferson Co. (Birmingham).....	c/ 16, 18	3,187	1,703	1,014	689	1,484	718	766	-	-	-
Mobile Co. (Mobile).....	16	1,675	1,182	973	209	493	420	73	-	-	-
Montgomery Co. (Montgomery)....	c/ 16, 18	1,003	784	269	515	219	33	186	-	-	-
64 small courts.....	16	2,055	1,294	983	311	761	699	62	-	-	-
ARIZONA:											
Maricopa Co. (Phoenix).....	18	8,403	8,048	6,153	1,895	275	187	88	80	80	-
1 small court.....	18	587	576	56	520	9	4	5	2	2	-
ARKANSAS:											
Pulaski Co. (Little Rock).....	21	1,320	780	198	582	540	54	486	-	-	-
19 small courts.....	21	846	466	364	102	353	136	217	27	26	1
CALIFORNIA:											
Alameda Co. (Oakland).....	21	11,469	9,285	1,817	7,468	1,603	475	1,128	581	31	550
Contra Costa Co. (Richmond)....	21	4,215	3,577	878	2,699	429	347	82	209	13	196
Fresno Co. (Fresno).....	21	1,308	913	566	347	244	211	33	151	5	146
Kern Co. (Bakersfield).....	21	2,539	2,052	966	1,086	292	250	42	195	20	175
Los Angeles Co. (Los Angeles)..	21	10,377	8,354	7,580	774	1,600	1,490	110	423	71	352
Monterey Co. (Monterey).....	21	1,404	1,108	445	663	160	61	99	136	12	124
Orange Co. (Santa Ana).....	21	7,074	6,358	754	5,604	334	167	167	382	14	368
Riverside So. (Riverside).....	21	2,056	1,827	720	1,107	198	185	13	31	14	17
Sacramento Co. (Sacramento)....	21	4,869	4,148	548	3,600	401	155	246	320	6	314
San Bernardino Co. (S. Bernardino)	21	2,735	2,497	1,025	1,472	236	236	-	2	2	-
San Diego Co. (San Diego).....	21	5,489	3,794	1,443	2,351	1,280	751	529	415	21	394
San Francisco Co. (S. Francisco)	21	8,598	6,872	1,136	5,736	1,540	584	956	186	1	185
San Joaquin Co. (Stockton).....	21	793	622	410	212	133	115	18	38	2	36
San Mateo Co. (San Mateo).....	21	4,327	3,805	330	3,475	378	161	217	144	3	141
Santa Clara Co. (San Jose).....	21	7,841	6,944	604	6,340	839	316	523	58	15	43
Solano Co. (Vallejo).....	21	1,291	1,057	165	892	154	88	66	80	1	79
Sonoma Co. (Santa Rosa).....	21	742	516	226	290	167	89	78	59	5	54
Stanislaus Co. (Modesto).....	21	2,487	2,212	295	1,917	137	101	36	138	6	132
Tulare Co. (Tulare).....	21	1,498	1,334	474	860	81	57	24	83	8	75
Ventura Co. (Oxnard).....	21	2,325	2,042	206	1,836	126	60	66	157	-	157
38 small courts.....	21	8,932	7,495	2,734	4,761	1,095	639	456	342	30	312
CONNECTICUT:											
First District (Bridgeport)....	16	2,551	2,263	545	1,718	288	288	-	-	-	-
Second District (New Haven)....	16	2,793	2,408	533	1,875	385	385	-	-	-	-
Third District (Hartford).....	16	2,293	1,909	510	1,399	384	384	-	-	-	-
DELAWARE:											
1 small court.....	18	1,186	879	777	102	246	227	19	61	61	-
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA:											
Washington - City.....	18	2,800	2,561	1,878	683	239	239	-	-	-	-
FLORIDA:											
Dade Co. (Miami).....	18	4,818	2,911	2,053	858	1,701	809	892	206	74	132
Hillsborough Co. (Tampa).....	18	2,196	1,217	775	442	959	870	89	20	20	-
Orange Co. (Orlando).....	18	1,153	809	444	365	250	129	121	94	78	16
Palm Beach Co. (W. Palm Beach).	18	982	662	441	221	283	160	123	37	22	15
Pinellas Co. (St. Petersburg)..	18	1,549	997	663	334	463	271	192	89	85	4
Polk Co. (Lakeland).....	18	1,356	940	628	312	416	165	251	-	-	-
45 small courts.....	18	5,445	3,693	1,717	1,976	1,571	547	1,024	181	161	20
GEORGIA:											
Bibb Co. (Macon).....	17	426	243	197	46	119	82	37	64	37	27
Chatham Co. (Savannah).....	17	1,338	536	204	332	793	151	642	9	9	-
DeKalb Co. (Decatur).....	17	1,455	865	821	44	150	150	-	440	440	-
Fulton Co. (Atlanta).....	17	3,829	3,004	1,541	1,463	709	412	297	116	116	-
Muscogee Co. (Columbus).....	17	1,182	844	844	-	293	293	-	45	45	-
Richmond Co. (Augusta).....	17	898	604	604	-	294	294	-	-	-	-
9 small courts.....	17	1,084	608	531	77	414	164	250	62	51	11
HAWAII:											
First Circuit (Honolulu).....	18	3,321	2,392	1,559	833	407	290	117	522	522	-
IDAHO:											
1 small court.....	18	31	31	2	29	-	-	-	-	-	-
ILLINOIS:											
Cook Co. (Chicago).....	c/ 17, 18	9,267	6,059	5,262	797	3,139	2,305	834	69	65	4
Du Page Co. (Elmhurst).....	c/ 17, 18	152	72	66	6	38	35	3	42	34	8
Kane Co. (Aurora).....	c/ 17, 18	300	122	122	-	121	121	-	57	57	-
Lake Co. (Waukegan).....	c/ 17, 18	771	352	102	250	150	150	-	269	269	-
Madison Co. (Alton).....	c/ 17, 18	344	58	58	-	177	177	-	109	109	-
Peoria Co. (Peoria).....	c/ 17, 18	417	185	29	156	59	40	19	173	168	5
St. Clair Co. (E. St. Louis)...	c/ 17, 18	413	174	121	53	88	88	-	151	151	-
Will Co. (Joliet).....	c/ 17, 18	136	68	54	14	20	20	-	48	48	-
Winnebago Co. (Rockford).....	c/ 17, 18	1,010	613	43	570	165	165	-	232	232	-
11 small courts.....	c/ 17, 18	619	286	183	103	169	153	16	164	161	3

Table 1: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 1,813 COURTS, 1956 a/--Continued

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial
INDIANA:											
Allen Co. (Fort Wayne)	18	780	780	351	429	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lake Co. (Gary)	18	1,637	1,617	459	1,158	13	7	6	7	7	-
Madison Co. (Anderson)	18	289	289	217	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marion Co. (Indianapolis)	18	2,680	1,719	1,706	13	440	435	5	521	503	18
St. Joseph Co. (South Bend)	18	63	63	63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vigo Co. (Terre Haute)	18	178	178	24	154	-	-	-	-	-	-
38 small courts	18	4,089	3,593	1,367	2,226	400	201	199	96	43	53
IOWA:											
Black Hawk Co. (Waterloo)	18	646	480	95	385	166	42	124	-	-	-
Linn Co. (Cedar Rapids)	18	697	656	91	565	41	14	27	-	-	-
Polk Co. (Des Moines)	18	1,237	975	264	711	262	174	88	-	-	-
Scott Co. (Davenport)	18	721	531	103	428	190	32	158	-	-	-
Woodbury Co. (Sioux City)	18	1,303	609	177	432	694	235	459	-	-	-
73 small courts	18	2,749	2,096	847	1,249	653	429	224	-	-	-
KANSAS:											
Sedgwick Co. (Wichita)	16	930	699	698	1	231	231	-	-	-	-
Shawnee Co. (Topeka)	16	274	213	49	164	61	29	32	-	-	-
Wyandotte Co. (Kansas City)	16	823	606	108	498	217	87	130	-	-	-
86 small courts	16	1,604	1,295	444	851	309	219	90	-	-	-
KENTUCKY:											
Fayette Co. (Lexington)	18	1,212	972	771	201	240	14	226	-	-	-
Jefferson Co. (Louisville)	18	6,563	5,603	1,943	3,660	861	644	217	99	99	-
Kenton Co. (Covington)	18	888	842	483	359	46	26	20	-	-	-
15 small courts	18	1,711	1,512	351	1,161	180	82	98	19	16	3
LOUISIANA:											
Fourth Judicial District (Monroe)	17	490	252	33	219	176	9	167	62	19	43
Caddo Parish (Shreveport)	17	781	514	230	284	181	153	28	86	86	-
E. Baton Rouge Parish (Baton Rouge)	17	1,527	829	380	449	582	124	458	116	116	-
24th Judicial District (Gretna)	17	327	216	170	46	45	45	-	66	66	-
32 small courts	17	3,115	2,086	1,475	611	714	489	225	315	260	55
MAINE:											
2 small courts	17	417	389	98	291	22	22	-	6	6	-
MARYLAND:											
Anne Arundel Co. (Annapolis)	18	524	463	359	104	61	61	-	-	-	-
Baltimore (City)	16	4,415	3,215	2,861	354	1,180	1,180	-	20	20	-
Baltimore Co.	18	1,246	919	919	-	322	322	-	5	5	-
Montgomery Co. (Silver Spring)	18	2,245	1,826	1,370	456	391	253	138	28	18	10
8 small courts	18	949	656	592	64	281	271	10	12	10	2
MASSACHUSETTS:											
Boston:											
Boston (Central Section)	17	883	883	883	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Brighton	17	80	80	80	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Charleston	17	173	173	114	59	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Dorchester	17	283	283	283	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
East Boston	17	126	126	89	37	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Roxbury	17	636	636	636	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
South Boston	17	158	158	158	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
West Roxbury	17	161	161	161	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
DISTRICT											
Worcester, Cent. (Worcester)	17	687	687	592	95	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
E. Norfolk (Quincy)	17	447	447	369	78	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
E. Middlesex, 1st (Malden)	17	380	380	366	14	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Lawrence (Lawrence)	17	136	136	136	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Lowell (Lowell)	17	177	177	177	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Bristol, 2nd (Fall River)	17	328	328	172	156	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Somerville (Somerville)	17	101	101	101	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Southern Essex (Lynn)	17	294	294	294	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Springfield (Springfield)	17	419	419	413	6	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
Bristol, 3rd (New Bedford)	17	316	316	213	103	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
E. Middlesex, 3rd (Cambridge)	17	257	257	257	-	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
54 small courts	17	3,865	3,865	3,353	512	d/	d/	d/	-	-	-
MICHIGAN:											
Berrien Co. (Benton Harbor)	17	746	656	259	397	90	90	-	-	-	-
Calhoun Co. (Battle Creek)	17	717	458	192	266	259	133	126	-	-	-
Genesee Co. (Flint)	17	2,226	1,727	545	1,182	499	499	-	-	-	-
Ingham Co. (Lansing)	17	1,084	866	126	740	218	218	-	-	-	-
Jackson Co. (Jackson)	17	650	594	157	437	56	56	-	-	-	-
Kalamazoo Co. (Kalamazoo)	17	862	740	94	646	122	71	51	-	-	-
Kent Co. (Grand Rapids)	17	1,945	1,680	332	1,348	265	244	21	-	-	-
Macomb Co. (East Detroit)	17	1,496	1,262	468	794	234	232	2	-	-	-
Muskegon Co. (Muskegon)	17	1,046	832	98	734	214	78	136	-	-	-
Oakland Co. (Pontiac)	17	2,169	1,742	601	1,141	427	236	191	-	-	-
Saginaw Co. (Saginaw)	17	469	361	224	137	108	73	35	-	-	-
Washtenaw Co. (Ann Arbor)	17	302	212	104	108	90	71	19	-	-	-
Wayne Co. (Detroit)	17	20,039	18,411	2,607	15,804	1,628	1,616	12	-	-	-
70 small courts	17	6,199	5,104	1,411	3,693	1,095	879	216	-	-	-

Table 1: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 1,813 COURTS, 1956 a/--Continued

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial
MINNESOTA:											
Hennepin Co. (Minneapolis).....	18	2,720	2,596	1,224	1,372	61	13	48	63	22	41
Ramsey Co. (St. Paul).....	18	3,849	3,423	1,312	2,111	426	426	-	-	-	-
St. Louis Co. (Duluth).....	18	1,092	963	661	302	129	129	-	-	-	-
6 small courts.....	18	939	874	651	223	51	36	15	14	14	-
MISSISSIPPI:											
Hinds Co. (Jackson).....	18	244	208	153	55	36	36	-	-	-	-
77 small courts.....	18	2,308	1,753	817	936	555	377	178	-	-	-
MISSOURI:											
Greene Co. (Springfield).....	17	555	490	151	339	64	64	-	1	-	1
Jackson Co. (Kansas City).....	17	2,305	2,000	950	1,050	301	100	201	4	2	2
St. Louis (City).....	17	4,343	2,999	816	2,183	960	422	538	384	359	25
St. Louis Co. (University City)	17	1,547	1,031	358	673	511	101	410	5	3	2
111 small courts.....	17	2,308	1,646	1,131	515	582	506	76	80	75	5
MONTANA:											
3 small courts.....	18	3,270	3,270	137	3,133	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW HAMPSHIRE:											
71 small courts.....	18	1,063	964	925	39	90	82	8	9	8	1
NEW MEXICO:											
Bernalillo Co. (Albuquerque)...	18	3,123	3,123	991	2,132	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 small courts.....	18	6,137	6,137	1,505	4,632	-	-	-	-	-	-
NEW YORK:											
Albany Co. (Albany).....	16	570	296	296	-	101	101	-	173	173	-
Broome Co. (Binghamton).....	16	303	142	78	64	112	112	-	49	49	-
Chautauqua Co. (Jamestown).....	16	298	131	122	9	88	88	-	79	79	-
Dutchess Co. (Poughkeepsie)....	16	204	123	122	1	7	7	-	74	74	-
Erie Co. (Buffalo).....	16	1,939	978	917	61	228	228	-	733	733	-
Monroe Co. (Rochester).....	16	1,044	482	327	155	131	104	27	431	424	7
New York (City).....	16	15,287	10,890	10,032	858	4,003	2,395	1,608	394	394	-
Niagara Co. (Niagara Falls)....	16	709	320	164	156	203	111	92	186	180	6
Oneida Co. (Utica).....	16	205	176	176	-	27	27	-	2	2	-
Onondaga Co. (Syracuse).....	16	1,215	566	412	154	316	207	109	333	333	-
Orange Co. (Newburgh).....	16	198	104	104	-	44	44	-	50	50	-
Rensselaer Co. (Troy).....	16	188	121	79	42	12	12	-	55	48	7
Schenectady Co. (Schenectady)..	16	240	89	89	-	54	54	-	97	97	-
Suffolk Co. (Islip).....	16	557	273	273	-	48	48	-	236	236	-
Westchester Co. (Yonkers).....	16	1,521	582	198	384	252	252	-	687	303	384
40 small courts.....	16	5,066	2,000	1,451	549	1,491	1,008	483	1,575	1,524	51
NORTH CAROLINA:											
Buncombe Co. (Asheville).....	16	268	125	103	22	22	20	2	121	121	-
Durham Co. (Durham).....	16	317	252	41	211	31	28	3	34	34	-
Forsyth Co. (Winston-Salem)....	16	638	324	261	63	266	259	7	48	46	2
Gaston Co. (Gastonia).....	16	539	227	124	103	235	98	137	77	65	12
Guilford Co. (Greensboro).....	16	958	507	303	204	240	209	31	211	159	52
Mecklenburg Co. (Charlotte)....	16	1,274	706	464	242	313	89	224	255	160	95
Wake Co. (Raleigh).....	16	615	344	285	59	8	6	2	263	263	-
99 small courts.....	16	3,163	2,352	2,243	109	592	591	1	219	219	-
NORTH DAKOTA:											
First Judicial Dist. (Fargo)..	18	836	676	406	270	69	52	17	91	88	3
3 small courts.....	18	359	293	68	225	39	17	22	27	23	4
OHIO:											
Butler Co. (Hamilton).....	18	1,606	1,437	531	906	47	35	12	122	106	16
Clark Co. (Springfield).....	18	913	855	147	708	58	57	1	-	-	-
Cuyahoga Co. (Cleveland).....	18	7,245	6,740	2,046	4,694	386	383	3	119	119	-
Franklin Co. (Columbus).....	18	2,327	1,914	1,455	459	346	289	57	67	60	7
Hamilton Co. (Cincinnati).....	18	7,664	7,030	283	6,747	461	454	7	173	34	139
Lorain Co. (Lorain).....	18	675	675	99	576	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lucas Co. (Toledo).....	18	4,741	4,060	1,932	2,128	87	84	3	594	467	127
Mahoning Co. (Youngstown).....	18	1,522	1,342	164	1,178	173	115	58	7	-	7
Montgomery Co. (Dayton).....	18	4,127	3,590	624	2,966	410	400	10	127	126	1
Stark Co. (Canton).....	18	171	73	73	-	98	98	-	-	-	-
Summit Co. (Akron).....	18	2,871	2,556	101	2,455	280	280	-	35	33	2
Trumbull Co. (Warren).....	18	1,057	911	360	551	125	119	6	21	21	-
71 small courts.....	18	14,307	12,423	7,535	4,888	1,362	1,294	68	522	421	101
OKLAHOMA:											
Oklahoma Co. (Oklahoma City)...	c/ 16, 18	1,212	941	134	807	66	59	7	205	205	-
Tulsa Co. (Tulsa).....	18	2,108	1,697	680	1,017	407	190	217	4	1	3
7 small courts.....	c/ 16, 18	441	228	174	54	208	149	59	5	5	-

Table 1: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 1,813 COURTS, 1956 a/--Continued

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial	Total	Official	Unofficial
OREGON:											
Lane Co. (Eugene)	18	1,205	975	245	730	178	66	112	52	9	43
Marion Co. (Salem)	18	1,037	747	513	234	129	91	38	161	125	36
Multnomah Co. (Portland)	18	5,249	3,696	1,200	2,496	1,096	444	652	457	223	234
18 small courts	18	6,614	5,164	1,632	3,532	1,078	418	660	372	76	296
PENNSYLVANIA:											
Allegheny Co. (Pittsburgh)	18	7,693	5,441	3,500	1,941	2,177	865	1,312	75	75	-
Beaver Co. (Aliquippa)	18	354	345	142	203	9	9	-	-	-	-
Berks Co. (Reading)	18	729	556	95	461	173	114	59	-	-	-
Blair Co. (Altoona)	18	353	249	134	115	61	43	18	43	32	11
Bucks Co. (Bristol)	18	418	352	185	167	66	66	-	-	-	-
Chester Co. (West Chester)	18	790	691	328	363	99	25	74	-	-	-
Delaware Co. (Chester)	18	878	653	382	271	225	205	20	-	-	-
Erie Co. (Erie)	18	342	247	112	135	82	27	55	13	13	-
Fayette Co. (Uniontown)	18	518	500	150	350	18	9	9	-	-	-
Lackawanna Co. (Scranton)	18	299	296	224	72	3	3	-	-	-	-
Lehigh Co. (Allentown)	18	416	292	226	66	115	71	44	9	9	-
Luzerne Co. (Wilkes-Barre)	18	577	577	577	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mercer Co. (Sharon)	18	322	154	103	51	69	66	3	99	99	-
Montgomery Co. (Norristown)	18	417	1,249	667	582	168	3	165	-	-	-
Northampton Co. (Bethlehem)	18	524	433	104	329	79	51	28	12	5	7
Philadelphia (City and Co.)	18	13,763	11,518	11,445	73	1,979	1,828	151	266	240	26
Schuylkill Co. (Pottsville)	18	766	525	201	324	218	115	103	23	23	-
Washington Co. (Washington)	18	356	356	274	82	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westmoreland Co. (New Kensington)	18	259	238	70	168	20	20	-	1	1	-
York Co. (York)	18	455	455	112	343	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 small courts	18	619	422	168	254	196	83	113	1	1	-
RHODE ISLAND:											
State (Providence)	18	2,213	1,616	1,332	284	139	139	-	458	458	-
SOUTH CAROLINA:											
Greenville Co. (Greenville)	18	1,810	1,008	527	481	385	230	155	417	339	78
Spartanburg Co. (Spartanburg)	18	337	247	111	136	-	-	-	90	61	29
7 small courts	18	675	479	381	98	116	78	38	80	74	6
SOUTH DAKOTA:											
55 small courts	18	2,738	2,437	766	1,671	185	114	71	116	88	28
TENNESSEE:											
Davidson Co. (Nashville)	18	2,770	2,464	2,464	-	306	306	-	-	-	-
Hamilton Co. (Chattanooga)	18	1,659	1,322	1,322	-	287	287	-	50	50	-
Memphis (City)	18	3,230	2,375	1,855	520	855	406	449	-	-	-
37 small courts	18	2,745	1,878	1,594	284	657	357	300	210	174	36
TEXAS:											
Bexar Co. (San Antonio)	c/ 17, 18	2,998	2,998	943	2,055	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameron Co. (Brownsville)	c/ 17, 18	414	414	46	368	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dallas Co. (Dallas)	c/ 17, 18	6,591	4,244	532	3,712	802	346	456	1,545	1,545	-
El Paso Co. (El Paso)	c/ 17, 18	2,109	2,109	148	1,961	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harris Co. (Houston)	c/ 17, 18	4,920	3,073	746	2,327	852	271	581	995	796	199
Hidalgo Co. (McAllen)	c/ 17, 18	303	303	13	290	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jefferson Co. (Beaumont)	c/ 17, 18	623	623	252	371	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lubbock Co. (Lubbock)	c/ 17, 18	578	528	45	483	50	49	1	-	-	-
McLennan Co. (Waco)	c/ 17, 18	1,165	1,143	54	1,089	22	2	20	-	-	-
Nueces Co. (Corpus Christi)	c/ 17, 18	963	953	197	756	3	1	2	7	7	-
Travis Co. (Austin)	c/ 17, 18	1,221	591	113	478	630	-	630	-	-	-
133 small courts	c/ 17, 18	4,313	3,735	1,360	2,375	351	181	170	227	182	45
UTAH:											
First District (Ogden)	18	3,447	3,239	1,996	1,243	208	154	54	-	-	-
Second District (Salt Lake City)	18	5,400	5,185	3,594	1,591	215	157	58	-	-	-
Third District (Provo)	18	2,586	2,430	1,871	559	156	74	82	-	-	-
3 small courts	18	1,598	1,460	1,319	141	138	101	37	-	-	-
VERMONT:											
16 small courts	16	425	174	174	-	251	251	-	-	-	-
VIRGIN ISLANDS:											
2 small courts	16	100	48	40	8	3	2	1	49	49	-
VIRGINIA:											
Arlington Co.	18	1,354	1,184	1,184	-	54	54	-	116	116	-
Fairfax Co. (Falls Church)	18	480	391	391	-	53	53	-	36	36	-
Norfolk (City)	18	2,274	1,579	1,579	-	341	341	-	354	354	-
111 small courts	18	12,291	9,892	8,946	946	1,596	1,449	147	803	680	123

Table 1: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY AND UNOFFICIALLY BY 1,813 COURTS, 1956 a/--Continued

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Total all cases	Delinquency cases			Dependency and neglect cases			Special proceedings		
			Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official	Total	Official	Un-official
WASHINGTON:											
King Co. (Seattle).....	18	7,812	6,449	4,794	1,655	636	350	286	727	691	36
Pierce Co. (Tacoma).....	18	1,208	834	417	417	233	117	116	141	138	3
Snohomish Co. (Everett).....	18	1,018	855	753	102	109	104	5	54	53	1
Spokane Co. (Spokane).....	18	3,147	2,898	1,544	1,354	206	80	126	43	39	4
Yakima Co. (Yakima).....	18	2,171	1,985	134	1,851	166	78	88	20	20	-
29 small courts.....	18	8,456	7,334	3,189	4,145	866	463	403	256	219	37
WEST VIRGINIA:											
Cabell Co. (Huntington).....	18	354	281	240	41	17	17	-	56	56	-
Kanawha Co. (Charleston).....	18	430	299	110	189	75	75	-	56	56	-
52 small courts.....	18	3,947	2,357	1,533	824	1,024	393	631	566	514	52
WISCONSIN:											
Dane Co. (Madison).....	18	1,912	1,355	9	1,346	425	6	419	132	59	73
Milwaukee Co. (Milwaukee).....	18	9,034	7,792	3,282	4,510	618	349	269	624	584	40
57 small courts.....	18	5,426	3,880	2,727	1,153	1,023	904	119	523	505	18

a/ NOTE WELL: The data in this table should not be used to make comparisons between communities regarding the extent of delinquency. Questions concerning changes in an individual court's data from one year to another should be directed to that individual court.

b/ Courts serving areas with population of 100,000 or more are listed separately, showing the chief city located in each area. Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population are combined for each State and are presented as "small courts."

c/ The age under which court has original jurisdiction is different for boys and girls. The age for boys appears first.

d/ No report on dependency and neglect cases.

Table 2: NUMBER OF DELINQUENCY, DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT, AND SPECIAL PROCEEDINGS CASES DISPOSED OF OFFICIALLY ONLY BY 45 COURTS, 1956 a/

Area served by court b/	Age under which court has original jurisdiction	Official cases only			
		Total	Delinquency	Dependency and neglect	Special proceedings
FLORIDA:					
Duval Co. (Jacksonville).....	17	2,028	973	876	179
Escambia Co. (Pensacola).....	17	825	607	218	-
1 small court.....	17	55	42	13	-
IOWA:					
15 small courts.....	18	268	191	77	-
NEBRASKA:					
Douglas Co. (Omaha).....	18	352	142	210	-
Lancaster Co. (Lincoln).....	18	227	123	66	38
4 small courts.....	18	108	61	-	47
NEW JERSEY: c/					
Atlantic Co. (Atlantic City)...	18	461	461	d/	d/
Bergen Co. (Hackensack).....	18	1,214	1,214	d/	d/
Burlington Co. (Burlington)....	18	144	144	d/	d/
Camden Co. (Camden).....	18	771	771	d/	d/
Essex Co. (Newark).....	18	3,188	3,188	d/	d/
Hudson Co. (Jersey City).....	18	1,007	1,007	d/	d/
Mercer Co. (Trenton).....	18	301	301	d/	d/
Middlesex Co. (Perth Amboy)....	18	420	420	d/	d/
Monmouth Co. (Long Branch).....	18	352	352	d/	d/
Morris Co. (Morristown).....	18	174	174	d/	d/
Passaic Co. (Paterson).....	18	480	480	d/	d/
Union Co. (Elizabeth).....	18	780	780	d/	d/
9 small courts.....	18	997	997	d/	d/

a/ The courts included here are those that reported their official cases only. For the purpose of this report these data are considered incomplete and are not used elsewhere in this report.

b/ Courts serving areas with population of 100,000 or more are listed separately, showing the chief city located in each area. Courts serving areas with less than 100,000 population are combined for each State and are presented as "small courts."

c/ Data for New Jersey are for period September 1, 1955 through August 31, 1956.

d/ No report on dependency, neglect or special proceedings.

Table 3: TREND IN JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES AND IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGED 10-17 IN THE UNITED STATES: 1940-1956

Year	Index (1950 = 100)	
	Juvenile delinquency cases a/	Child population of U.S. (10-17 years of age) b/
1940	71	110
1941	80	109
1942	89	107
1943	123	105
1944	118	102
1945	123	101
1946	105	100
1947	94	100
1948	91	100
1949	97	100
1950	100	100
1951	106	102
1952	119	105
1953	134	109
1954	141	112
1955	154	116
1956	186	119

a/ Trend for 1955 and 1956 based on data from a representative national sample of juvenile courts. Trend data prior to 1955 are estimated by the Children's Bureau and are based on reports from a comparable group of courts.

b/ Trend based on data from Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce (Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 98 and 146).

Table 4: TREND IN DEPENDENCY AND NEGLECT CASES AND IN NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE IN THE UNITED STATES: 1946 -1956

Year	Index (1950 = 100)	
	Dependency and neglect cases a/	Child population of U.S. (Under 18 years of age) b/
1946	109	89
1947	112	92
1948	111	95
1949	105	97
1950	100	100
1951	104	103
1952	105	107
1953	111	111
1954	111	114
1955	114	118
1956	113	122

a/ Trend for 1955 and 1956 based on data from 1,364 courts serving about 63 percent of the child population under 18 years of age in the United States. Trend data prior to 1955 are estimated by the Children's Bureau and are based on reports from a comparable group of courts.

b/ Trend based on data from Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce (Current Population Reports, Series P-25, Nos. 98, 121 and 172).

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